Misappropriation of funds at Koorebhar Health Centre

†1250. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the funds provided by Government and World Health Organisation for polio immunization are being misappropriated at the Koorebhar Health Centre of Sultanpur District, UP;

(b) the reasons for not transferring the immunization officers and medical officers in-charge of Koorebhar for the last 12-13 years despite of irregularities being committed by them in the purchase of generators, vehicles, diesel, etc;

(c) whether Government would conduct an inquiry into the irregularities after transferring these officers; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has reported that no complaints of irregularities in the utilisation of funds for polio immunization have been received from Sultanpur district.

Recognition of Medical Degrees obtained in Russia

†1251. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the medical colleges in Russia which have been recognized by the Medical Council of India;

(b) whether it is a fact that the doctors coming out of the said medical colleges of Russia are forced to go in for screening test for registration in India;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any memorandum has been received by Government to stop this; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (e) The recognition of medical institutions abroad under the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 has been done away with the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

coming into force of Regulations framed under the provisions of the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Act, 2001. As per the provisions of the amended Act, the primary medical qualification awarded to an Indian citizen by any foreign medical University/institution, which is a recognised qualification for enrolment as a medical practitioner in the country in which the institution awarding the same is situated, shall be a recognised qualification in India only for the person conerned after he/she has qualified the Screening test conducted in India. As per the provisions of the amended Act, qualifying the Screening test is essential for grant of registration to practice medicine in India. Therefore, the demand made by the students for exemption from appearing in the Screening Test cannot be agreed to.

Prevalence of TB among developing countries

1252. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tuberculosis has been declared as one of the most dreaded diseases in the developing and third world countries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that an empirical study has confirmed the prevalence of this disease among the economically and socially backward group of population with poor living conditions;

(c) if so, whether Government would consider a proposal to draw a contingent plan for extending preventive and remedial assistance to affected people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. TB has been declared a global emergency by WHO in 1993.

(b) Tuberculosis is mainly in airborne disease so when a TB patient sneezes or coughs, the bacilli spread in the air and any person irrespective of his/her economic and social status who is infected with that bacilli can develop TB. However, economically and socially backward group of population with the living conditions are more prone to this disease due to various factors like overcrowding and poorly ventilated living conditions etc.

(c) and (d) Revised National TB Control Programme which is an application WHO recommended Directly Observed Shortcourse (DOTS) strategy is being implemented in the country in a phased manner to control TB and also to